

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are currently pending. Claims 1-13 stand rejected, and claims 14-27 have been withdrawn. Claims 1, 6, and 7 are currently amended. Claims 28-42 are new. No new matter is added. The specification is currently amended as requested by the Examiner.

In the Final Office Action dated July 7, 2006, claims 1-7, 9, 10, 12, and 13 were rejected under 35 USC §103(s) over US 4,365,007 to Maru (Maru) in view of US 6,268,077 to Kelley (Kelley) and US 5,227,258 to Ito (Ito). Claim 8 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) over Maru in view of Kelley and Ito and further in view of US 2003/0232230 to Carter (Carter). Claim 11 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) over Maru in view of Kelley and Ito and further in view of US 2003/0044674 to Mallari (Mallari). Claim 13 was rejected under 35 USC §112, although the Action indicated that this rejection has been withdrawn.

Amended claim 1 recites an apparatus including a fuel cell stack having a pair of electrodes including an anode and a cathode, and a thin film solid oxide electrolyte disposed therebetween, a manifold disposed on the fuel cell stack for conveying a fuel to the fuel cell stack, a fuel processor disposed on the manifold and having a substrate support including at least one channel and catalyst for reforming the fuel, and a combustor thermally coupled to the fuel processor.

Maru describes a fuel cell system including a catalyst for reforming hydrocarbons. Kelley describes a portable fuel cell power supply. Ito discloses a fuel electrode for solid oxide fuel cells. Mallari describes silicon-based fuel cell electrode structures. None of the cited references teach or suggest all the elements recited in Applicants' amended claim 1. Thus, the claims, as amended, render moot all the pending rejections.

In view of the above remarks, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Consideration of the claims is respectfully requested, and a notice of allowance is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner has any questions concerning this Response, the Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's representative at 925-422-7073.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures: As noted above